Imperial College London

Module Specification (Curriculum Review)

Basic details

UID		Cohorts covered	Earliest cohort	Latest cohort
			2025-26	

Long title: Third-year self-study project module

New code	PHYS60023	New short title	Self-study Project

Brief description of module *(approx. 600 chars.)*

This module allows students to conduct an independent investigation of an open-ended nature into a current area of research in physics. This in-depth study will develop a deeper understanding of a specific topic compared to content in taught lecture modules. The module will develop their ability to distil information from the scientific literature using methods appropriate to the chosen topic.

397 characters

Available as a standalone module/ short course? N

Statutory details

	ECTS	CATS	Non-credit	
Credit value	7.5	15	N	HECOS codes

FHEQ level: Level 6

Allocation of study hours

	Hours	
Lectures	1	
Group teaching	3	*Incl. seminars, tutorials, problem classes.*
Lab/ practical		
Other scheduled	1	*Incl. project supervision, fieldwork, external visits.*
Independent study	182.5	*Incl. wider reading/ practice, follow-up work, completion of assessments, rev*
Placement		*Incl. work-based learning and study that occurs overseas.*
Total hours	187.5	
ECTS ratio	25.00	

Project/placement activity

Is placement activity allowed? No

Module delivery

Delivery mode	Taught/ Campus	Other	Supervision
Delivery term		Other	Term 1 or 2

Ownership

Primary department: Physics

Additional teaching departments	Joint supervision involving staff members from Physics and from another department can be offered by the department.
Delivery campus	South Kensington

Collaborative delivery

Collaborative delivery?	N
External institution	N/A
External department	N/A
External campus	N/A

Associated staff

Role	CID	Given name	Surname
Module Leader		Paul	French

Learning and teaching

Module description

Learning outcomes	On completing the Self-Study Project module, students will: 1. be able to make use of appropriate research tools to search the scientific literature to extract information on in a topic of current research interest in physics; 2. be able to demonstrate effective collaboration and project management within the project groups; 3. be able to review critically the scientific literature on the chosen topic; 4. be able to communicate their findings and their understanding of the area in the form of a written report and in oral discussion.
Module content	This is a one-term in-depth and open-ended investigation into a specific topic in contemporary physics. The topic areas on offer will be published by the department in advance. The investigation is more substantial and open-ended than those students will have experienced up to this point in their undergraduate programme. It might typically explore an open problem in physics for which the answer is not yet known or settled.
Learning and Teaching Approach	The learning is principally focussed around an independent self-study investigation. This will be under the guidance of a supervisor who is a member of staff in the relevant area of physics. The supervisor will monitor progress and provide formative feedback with scheduled meetings during the module. These meetings are conducted in groups. The groups consist of students who share the same area of research so that students can share and discuss their findings as a team. We have provided for the possibility of a one-to-one meeting with students and teams for specific advice.

Assessment Strategy	The assessment consists of - continuous assessment (25%) of the team by the supervisor. The supervisor will be able to assess the effectiveness of the investigation (LO1&2) and the depth of understanding (LO3) after discussion at scheduled meetings and using the evidence from the team journal. - a written report (25%) assessed by two independent assessors to assess LO3&4. - a viva (50%) for individual students marked by an independent assessor. The viva will probe critical understanding of the topic and the findings from the report in order to assess LO3&4.
Feedback	Formative feedback on progress will be provided in group meetings. Summative feedback is provided after the viva.
Reading list	The supervisor will provide initial reading at the start of the module. The student will search for further literature as part of their independent investigation.

Quality assurance

Date of first approval	
Date of last revision	
Date of this approval	
Module leader	Paul French

Office use only

QA Lead	
Department staff	
Date of collection	
Date exported	
Date imported	

Notes/ comments	Core for F325 and F390 programmes (Physics with Theoretical Physics BSc and MSci). Elective for F300 and F303 programmes (Physics BSc and MSci).

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Programme structure

Associated modules

UID	Legacy code	Module title	Requisite type

Assessment details

		Pass mark
Grading method	Numeric	40%

Assessments

Assessment type	Assessment description	Weighting	Pass mark	Must pass?
			40%	
Coursework	Continuous Assessment	25%		N
Coursework	Written report	25%		N
Coursework	Viva	50%		N
		100%		